

MONITORED SPECIES OF ALGAE, PLANTS AND ANIMALS AT SAN SIMEON

The following species of algae, plants, and animals are monitored at the San Simeon site. Some of the monitored species are rare or absent at San Simeon, but we list them on our data sheets for comparison with other sites surveyed. A few species that are not monitored, but are conspicuous and common at San Simeon, are also listed. Sometimes similar species or genera are so difficult to distinguish in the field that they are counted together as one entry; we use “spp.” when all the species in one genus are counted together, and we use “/” to separate two species or genera that are counted together. Common names are given when available, but many species lack common names; in some cases we have made up descriptive common names. Species marked with an asterisk (*) are currently being monitored at the San Simeon site: ¹**counted as individuals in the 1/4m² quadrats**, ²**counted as number of squares in the 1/4m² quadrats**, ³**counted as individuals in a defined area**. Note: “alga,” “plant,” and “animal” are singular nouns; “algae,” “plants,” and “animals” are plural nouns; and “algal,” “plant,” and “animal” are adjectives. **Do not use “algae” as a singular noun or an adjective.**

GREEN ALGAE/FLOWERING PLANTS

*²*Cladophora columbiana* - green pin-cushion alga

*²*Codium fragile* - dead man's fingers

*²*Enteromorpha* spp./*Ulva* spp. - sea lettuces

*²*Phyllospadix scouleri/torreyi* - surfgrasses

BROWN ALGAE

*¹*Egregia menziesii* - feather-boa kelp

*²*Fucus gardneri/Hesperophycus californicus* - flattened rockweeds

Laminaria setchellii - split-blade oar kelp

Laminaria sinclarii - slender oar kelp

*²*Pelvetiopsis limitata/Silvetia compressa* - slender rockweeds

RED ALGAE

*²*Bossiella* spp./*Calliarthron* spp./*Corallina* spp. - upright coralline algae

Chondracanthus canaliculata - no common name

Chondracanthus corymbifera/harveyana/spinosa - turkish-towel algae

*²*Endocladia muricata* - scouring-pad alga

Gastroclonium subarticulatum - no common name

Gelidium spp. - no common name (confused with *Endocladia muricata*)

*²*Halosaccion glandiforme* - sea sacks or sea nipples

Mastocarpus jardinii/papillatus - stunted turkish-towel algae

Mazzaella affinis - no common name (confused with *Mastocarpus* spp.)

*²*Mazzaella flaccida/splendens* - iridescent algae

Porphyra spp. - nori

Prionitis lanceolata - no common name

ENCRUSTING ALGAE

*²Encrusting coralline algae - *Lithophyllum* spp./*Lithothamnion* spp. and others on rocks

*²Tar-spot algae - *Mastocarpus* spp. (encrusting form)/*Petrospongium rugosum/Ralfsia* spp. and others

SPONGES

Axocelita/Microciona/Ophlitaspongia/Plocamia - red sponges

Haliclona spp. - purple sponge

SEA ANEMONES

- *²*Anthopleura elegantissima* - aggregating anemone
- *^{1,3}*Anthopleura sola* - sunburst anemone
- *^{1,3}*Anthopleura xanthogrammica* - giant green anemone

WORMS

- *²*Phragmatopoma californica* - honeycomb tube worm

CHITONS

- Katharina tunicata* - black chiton
- *¹*Mopalia* spp./*Nuttallina californica*/*Lepitochitona* spp. and others - chitons

LIMPETS

- *³*Lottia gigantea* (>2.5 cm) - owl limpet
- *²*Lottia* spp. (0.5-2.5 cm, on rocks) - limpets

SNAILS

- *¹*Acanthinucella* spp./*Nucella* spp. - whelks
- Littorina keenae* - eroded periwinkle
- Littorina plena/scutulata* - checkered periwinkles
- Ocenebra circumtexta* - circles rock snail
- *¹*Tegula brunnea/funebris* - turban snails

ABALONES

- *³*Haliotis cracherodii* - black abalone

MUSSELS

- *²*Mytilus californianus* - California sea mussel

BARNACLES

- *²*Balanus glandula* and *Chthamalus dalli/fissus* - common acorn barnacles
- *²*Pollicipes polymerus* - leaf barnacle
- *²*Tetracita rubescens* - pink acorn barnacle (rare)

CRABS

- Pachygrapsus crassipes* - lined shore crab
- *¹*Pagurus* spp. - hermit crabs (mainly *P. granosimanus*)

SEA STARS

- Asterina miniata* - bat star
- Leptasterias hexactis* - six rayed sea star
- Pisaster giganteus* - giant spined sea star
- *³*Pisaster ochraceus* - ochre sea star
- Pycnopodia helianthoides* - sunflower star (not common, but spectacular)

SEA URCHINS

- *¹*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* - purple sea urchin (juveniles are green)

TUNICATES

- Aplidium californicum* - slippery slab tunicate

Archidistoma psammion - sand encrusted slab tunicate

Distalpia occidentalis - mushroom tunicate

Styela montereyensis - stalked tunicate

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